

# Big Bend

## Ranger Programs

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park  
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River



**April 24 - 30, 2016**

### **Sunday, April 24 – National Park Rx (Prescription) Day**

**9:30 AM Walk for Your Health – “Beautiful Boquillas”** Many health professionals are prescribing nature activities to promote healthier lifestyles for their patients. Join Ranger J. Jurado for a walk into Boquillas Canyon and a discussion about how national parks and other public lands are important for our physical and mental health. Meet at the Boquillas Canyon Trailhead. Bring a hat, water, and hiking shoes. 1 mile round-trip. 1 hour.

**7:30 PM Walk for Your Health – “Evening in the Basin”** What a perfect way to end the day – an evening walk in the Chisos Basin. Join Ranger B. Frohbieter for a walk on the Basin Loop Trail and a discussion about how national parks and other public lands are important for our physical and mental health. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead near the Camp Store. Bring a hat, water, and hiking shoes. 1.8 mile round-trip. 1 ½ hours.

### **Monday, April 25**

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Hot Springs, a History”** From prehistoric camp to healing resort, the hot springs on the Rio Grande have been a focal point for communities throughout history. The art and homes they left behind reveal their stories. Join Ranger J. Woerner to learn more about the history of the Hot Springs. Meet at the Hot Springs store (50 yards from the parking lot). Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. 1 mile. 1 hour.

### **Tuesday, April 26**

**Sorry, no programs today.** The 22-mile-long Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive offers access to eight different trails, several scenic vistas, many paved pullouts with exhibits that highlight park geology and cultural history, and culminates at the Castolon Historic District. Take a day and go explore!

### **Wednesday, April 27**

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Chasing Birds”** Birds, birds, everywhere! Stroll the Rio Grande Village area. Meet Volunteers J. and S. Ewan at the Rio Grande Village Amphitheater parking lot. Bring water and binoculars if you have them. 1 mile. 1 - 1½ hours.

### **Thursday, April 28**

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “What Is Blooming Now?”** Big Bend is known for its remarkable diversity in plants adapted to an arid environment. Join Volunteer P. Spruell to find the currently flowering plants and learn of the easily recognizable characteristics that will help you identify them in any season. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater parking lot. Bring water; wear sturdy shoes. 1 mile. 1 hour.

**8:30 PM Evening Program – “Big Cats in Big Bend”** Solitary and elusive, mountain lions have incited mystery, myth, and the imagination. Although often feared by people, these cats play an important role in the health of Big Bend’s ecology. Join Ranger J. Woerner to learn about these powerfully misunderstood creatures and what makes them so special. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Bring a flashlight. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

### **Friday, April 29**

**8:30 PM Evening Program – “A Fundamental Purpose”** 100 years ago, far thinking citizens and legislators fought for the creation of an agency whose mission is to conserve wild, beautiful and historic places in the United States. Join Ranger B. Smith for an evening’s discourse on the National Park Service. Meet at the Rio Grande Village Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour.

### **Saturday, April 30**

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “The Way We Walk”** Many of us have enjoyed hiking on trails, but have you ever thought about how or why these trails were built? Join Ranger J. Woerner for a closer look at the work and thought behind trail building. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. ½ mile. 45 minutes.

**10:00 PM Evening Program – “Star-gazing with Binoculars and the Naked Eye”** You don’t need a telescope to locate and enjoy many of the natural wonders in the night skies over Big Bend National Park. Join Volunteer R. Wonite for a laser-guided tour of the more prominent stars, star clusters, and nebulae in the winter sky [weather permitting]. Meet at the pullout at Mile 15.3 on the road to Rio Grande Village. Wheelchair accessible. Bring binoculars and/or a chair if you have them. 1 hour.

### **Not able to attend a program? Consider these alternatives:**

Enjoy the breath-taking beauty of Big Bend National Park in comfort with our 22 minute Park Orientation film. Available daily on request at the Panther Junction Visitor Center.

Explore beyond the park and learn more about Big Bend history. The Terlingua Ghost Town offers several restaurants and stores, as well as a self-guiding tour of the old quicksilver mining district and historic cemetery.